

to remove slavery from business operations and products.

The Business Transparency on Trafficking and Slavery Act doesn't tell businesses what to do, but rather to tell consumers what they are doing to end human slavery.

This bill will help raise awareness for consumers who want to know where and how their goods are being made. While there are good actors, there are businesses operating in parts of the world that rely on enslaved humans to produce their products. We believe American consumers have a right to know who these companies are.

This legislation creates a market-based solution rather than relying on prescriptive action by the federal government. Companies simply have to report to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) what they are doing to rid their supply chains of human slavery and post this information on their company Web sites. Consumers will be able to research a company and determine their purchasing decisions based on the information provided. Very simply, this bill creates competition to improve practices to end slavery by providing the public with information about what companies are doing to address slavery.

Human trafficking is the slavery of the 21st century. It is estimated that nearly 12.3 million people are working in some form of forced labor worldwide. The International Labor Organization estimates that for every person trafficked into commercial sexual exploitation, nine people are forced primarily into labor exploitation. We must use every tool available to help these men, women, and children around the world who are enslaved.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this important legislation.

HONORING THE FAIR HAVEN COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER ON ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to extend my sincere congratulations to the administrators and staff of Fair Haven Community Health Center as they celebrate their 40th Anniversary. Over the last four decades, the Fair Haven Community Health Center has provided quality, affordable health care to some of our community's most vulnerable families. In doing so, they have become an invaluable resource to hundreds, earning a well-deserved reputation for ensuring that health care is available regardless of ability to pay. This is an outstanding organization and I am proud to join community leaders and residents alike in commemorating this remarkable milestone.

In 1971 a small group of dedicated nurses, doctors, students, and neighborhood volunteers, under the leadership of a community advocacy agency called the Alliance for Latin American Progress, opened the Fair Haven Clinic in a local elementary school. Two nights a week, the Clinic served adults and children on a walk-in basis for minor ailments, immunizations, and family planning services. With a budget of only five thousand dollars, made available through a grant from the Greater

New Haven Community Foundation, they were able to accommodate over five hundred visits in their first year. It was clear that families were not only in need of these basic services, but of expanded health care as well. Over the next decade the Clinic worked to expand the services that they were able to provide to more comprehensive primary health care. Today, the Fair Haven Community Health Center has grown into one of our community's most respected non-profit primary health care organizations, providing comprehensive health care—from prenatal and pediatric to adolescent, adult and geriatric care—to hundreds of residents every year.

The administrators and staff at Fair Haven Community Health Center continue to seek every opportunity that will allow them to provide quality health care to those families who are either uninsured or underinsured. With the growing number of those families who find themselves uninsured or underinsured, the Center has seen demands in the community rise exponentially. I have had many opportunities to visit the Center and am always impressed with the amount of good work that they are able to do with the limited funding that they receive. The Center not only provides health care services, but they have developed and implemented extraordinary outreach and education programs which benefit community residents. Perhaps most importantly, the Center provides the community with the security of knowing that their families will have access to the quality health care they need without the fear of the financial burden of excessive medical bills.

I would be remiss if I did not extend a special note of thanks and congratulations to the Center's Executive Director, Katrina Clark. Katrina has been at the helm of this organization for all but its first two years. It has been under her leadership and because of her vision that the Center has grown so successfully over the last four decades. I have had the privilege to know Katrina for many years. Her commitment to the people of the Fair Haven community is only equaled by her determination to ensure that they have access to quality, affordable health care. She is an extraordinary woman and I consider myself fortunate to benefit from her counsel and friendship.

Over the course of their history, the Fair Haven Community Health Center has developed strong partnerships that have helped them to continue to expand their services to meet the ever-changing needs of the community. I am proud of the work that we have been able to do together and am honored to have this opportunity to extend my warmest congratulations on their 40th Anniversary as well as my very best wishes for many more years of successful work in our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 326 I was unable to cast my vote on the House floor because I was ill. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

THE LONE STAR BATTALION

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, when called upon by their country to go into service, Texans have always been up to the challenge. And, in fact, today, serving somewhere in the world, one out of 10 people wearing the American uniform is from the state of Texas.

Texans are always on the front lines in the defense of freedom. It goes all the way back to 1836 when the first Texas veteran found himself at a beat-up old Spanish church in Central Texas that we now call the Alamo. The Alamo was more than 100 years old at the time that he and 186 other brave Texans defended freedom. The defenders of the Alamo were determined to seek liberty for the Republic of Texas. These veterans just like all of those who have followed risked their lives in the name of freedom.

To be a member of the United States military is a gift, a sacrifice and it is an honor. Every day our warriors risk their lives, and today I would like to commend a special infantry battalion close to the heart of many Texans.

The 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, or 1/23, also known as "The Lone Star Battalion," is a home-grown group of soldiers headquartered in Houston, containing approximately 800 Marines and Navy/Corpsmen. The Lone Star Battalion has played a most significant and important part of history. I am proud to recognize and honor the service of the men and women of the 1/23 Marines.

The history of this unit is one of many great successes. Activated in 1942 in North Carolina, they were sent to the Pacific to aid in the United States' "island-hopping" campaign against Japan during World War II. They participated in many battles during this time including Roi-Namur, Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima.

Post-World War II, the battalion was activated once again, this time out of Houston on July 1, 1962. After the 9/11 attacks, it was mobilized for the first time since World War II in support of Operation Desert Storm.

Because of the ongoing conflicts in Iraq, the battalion continued to support the global war on terrorism by participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom. It is currently deployed in Afghanistan supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

Ronald Reagan said this about the United States Marines: "Some people live an entire lifetime and wonder if they have ever made a difference in the world, but the Marines, they don't have that problem."

Recently, the Lone Star Battalion worked with coalition and the Afghan National Army troops to build a school in the small village of Abad, Afghanistan. Not only is this the first school the village has ever seen, the civilian enrollment is projected to be around 50 students come the start of the school year.

This is a critical development considering the literacy rate of the total population in Afghanistan is 28.1 percent.

Acknowledging that it was imperative for the ANA to establish trust and accountability for the civilians they defend, the Marines were eager to let the ANA take the lead role in the construction process of the school. It seems

as though not only are these exceptional Marines training the ANA and performing their respective duties, but they are also aiding in forging a bond between a young, willing military and a civilian people in need of a sense of security.

The sons of liberty and daughters of democracy throughout America, and especially Texas, continue to join the military. They understand that our nation is at war, yet they choose to charge headlong into battle. There are not many of us who would be willing to volunteer to leap into the lion's den of Afghanistan where the cowardly enemy hides in caves.

There have been two warriors killed from the Lone Star Battalion this year in Afghanistan: SSgt. Jeremy Smith and Navy Corpsman Benjamin Rast. We shall always remember Smith and Rast and the lives they gave for our freedom.

It has been said that wars may be fought by weapons, but they are won by warriors. It is America's warriors who pay the price for our freedom.

With the recent demise of the most wanted terrorist, Osama bin Laden, the Lone Star Battalion has rejoiced knowing that the Al Qaeda leader is dead but remains humble knowing the fight for freedom is not yet won. I am truly honored to represent many of these fine Marines in Congress and proud to know that there are so many Texans abroad aiding in the security, development and protection of the Afghan and American interests.

I sincerely thank each person who has served our country yesterday, today and tomorrow. Without your service we would not be the greatest country the world has ever known.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA, NAMED "BEST FOR FOOD" IN THE UNITED STATES BY RAND McNALLY

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the many contributors who hosted the Rand McNally Best of the Road competition's judges in Lafayette, Louisiana. Their combined efforts led to Lafayette being named the first "Best for Food" city in the United States. This recognition confirms what many of us already know—there is no place like Lafayette, Louisiana.

The Best of the Road competition began this year in search of the best city in the country in five categories: "Most Beautiful," "Most Patriotic," "Friendliest," "Most Fun," and "Best for Food." Over 600 towns applied for the awards, and thirty finalists were chosen. After visiting the finalists, the judges (consisting of 10 amateur travelers) selected the final 5 winners.

Judges Bonnie and James Parr visited Lafayette to experience the culture and cuisine. The Lafayette Convention and Visitors Commission, LCVC, created an itinerary showcasing not only Lafayette's unique culinary landscape, but also her rich Cajun history. Chef Patrick Mould served as the culinary

host, guiding them through their entire experience. The Parrs dined at the following restaurants: Dwyer's, Blue Dog Cafe, Jolie's Bistro, Johnson's Boucaniere, Don's Seafood Hut, French Press, Pamplona Tapas Bar and Restaurant, Charley G's, Randol's, Accidental Chef Cooking, and Hub City Diner. They had lunch with City President Joey Durel, toured the Jean Lafitte Center and Vermilionville, volunteered at St. Joseph's Diner, and visited St. John's Cathedral.

According to Rand McNally's website, the judges "learned the true taste of Cajun food to be 'flavorful, not hot or spicy' and after a meal, the best dessert is 'Cajun dancing.'"

Because Lafayette was chosen as a winning city, it was featured in USA Today on Friday, July 22, 2011. Lafayette's "Best for Food" title will be displayed in the 2013 Rand McNally Atlas.

I am thrilled Lafayette, my hometown, has been honored in such a unique and fitting manner. The award is excellent publicity for our city and region. Once again, I congratulate City Parish President Joey Durel, all members of the LCVC who worked on this project, and the restaurants and chefs who provided such excellent food for the judges.

TO AMEND SECTION 402(a)(2)(M) OF THE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND WORK OPPORTUNITY RECONCILIATION ACT OF 1996 TO EXTEND BY TWO YEARS THE SPECIAL RULE RELATING TO ELIGIBILITY FOR BENEFITS UNDER THE SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN ALIENS AND VICTIMS OF TRAF- FICKING

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that would extend by two years the three-year effective period of extended Supplemental Security Income, SSI, eligibility for time-limited humanitarian immigrants. This is a commonsense bill that simply extends the current policy, which is set to expire on October 1, 2011. The population that would be assisted by this legislation is elderly and disabled refugees and other humanitarian immigrants who have very low income, and who face barriers to passing the naturalization exams within the time limits.

In 2007 during the 110th Congress I introduced H.R. 2608 with bipartisan support, which was signed into law by President George W. Bush in 2008 (P.L. 110–328). This legislation would extend that policy again so that approximately 3,000 refugees do not lose SSI benefits on October 1. Failure to enact this legislation would cause serious hardship for this population.

Mr. Speaker, July 28, 2011 marks the 60th anniversary of the Geneva Refugee Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, an international treaty signed by 142 nations, including the United States. This treaty remains the cornerstone of refugee protection and represents the struggle of millions of displaced people who are uprooted by conflict and persecution. The treaty explicitly commits nations

to ensure that lawful refugees be eligible for basic public assistance. This legislation is a small step toward meeting our commitment. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

ON THE OCCASION OF DAVID PAYNE'S RETIREMENT AS SUPERVISOR OF BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate David Payne on a successful career—40 years in service to the residents of Bloomfield Township, as he retires from his position as Township Supervisor.

Mr. Payne began his career in the Road Department in 1970 while finishing his college studies. Just five years later Dave was promoted to Director of the Road Department, the youngest director in the Township's history.

Dave's foray into elected politics began in 1995 when he was appointed Township Treasurer and was subsequently elected to that position in the following year. Thanks to his strong record as Treasurer, Dave was selected to replace his predecessor in the Supervisor's office in 1999 and the residents of Bloomfield Township have subsequently elected to that position three times, in 2000, 2004 and 2008.

Dave's stewardship of Bloomfield Township has resulted not only in continued prosperity of its businesses and residents, but also transformed the Township's professional environment.

When Dave took the reins of the Township he implemented new policies to change how the Township interacts with the media, its residents and intra-operationally. Upon entering office Dave worked to ensure good communication between the Township and the media—always making himself available to answer questions. He also sought to make it easier for residents and citizen groups to integrate their input into Township business and for concerned citizens to be able to communicate directly with elected officials.

During Dave's tenure as Supervisor, Bloomfield Township has weathered an economic storm that has affected so many other communities across Michigan and the Nation. As a result of Bloomfield Township's sure financial footing under Dave's leadership, Standard and Poor's raised the Township's credit rating to AAA, the highest rating possible for municipalities and as such, Bloomfield Township is one of only five municipalities in Michigan to hold this rating.

Dave's approach to leadership in Bloomfield Township has resulted in continued success for the Township's businesses and residents. I know his hands-on approach to leadership and his ability to produce consensus will be greatly missed by his colleagues and residents who he served. I wish Dave many more years of success and know that as a resident of Bloomfield Township, the community will continue to benefit from his activism and service.